Amendments to the claims

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a face-seal interface for a respiratory facemask, said interface configured and adapted to provide a seal between peripheral boundaries of said respiratory facemask and a patient's face, and wherein said interface has a micro-cratered outer surface and is covered with a dry powder acting as a lubricant; said method comprising the steps of:

mixing together plasticizing oil[,]and a polymer to form an elastomeric polymer, and mixing said elastomeric polymer with a predetermined amount of at least one additive to form a mixture, wherein the predetermined amount of the at least one additive is proportionately in excess of an amount of additive that is soluble in the mixture at room temperature;

~~melting~~ heating the mixture ~~so that the additives are dissolved in a stable solution;~~ to at least a melting point where the mixture becomes molten and the additive is soluble in the molten mixture in a stable solution;

molding or extruding the mixture to form ~~a preselected item;~~ said interface configured and adapted to provide a seal between peripheral boundaries of said respiratory facemask and a patient's face;

allowing the ~~preselected item~~ mixture to cool until it solidifies and becomes an-elastomer in the form of said interface;

whereby the at least one additive precipitates after the solidification of the elastomer; and

whereby the at least one additive migrates to the surface of the elastomer to form a dry powder that covers the surface of the face-seal interface ~~and provides~~ thereby providing a lubricant and further, creates micro-craters on the surface of the face-seal interface, whereby both the powder and micro-craters reduce friction between the user's skin and the elastomer.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one additive is added to the mixture of polymer and plasticizing oil [in] when the mixture is ion its molten state.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of stretching the elastomer after the elastomer has solidified.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of mixing a seed oil with an insoluble fine powder to the plasticizing oil.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of posting a precipitation seed on the molded elastomer.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting the at least one additive from the group consisting of Tetrakis (2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl) [1,1-biphenyl]-4,4'-diylbisphosphonite; Tris (2,4-~~ditert~~di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate; Butanedioic acid, dimethylester, polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidine ethanol; 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-(4,6-bis(octylthio)-1,3,5-triazin-2-ylamino)phenol; 3,3',3',5,5',5'-hexa-tert-butyl-a,a',a'-(mesitylene-2,4,6-triyl) tri-p-cresol; and Pentaerythritol Tetrakis (3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxphenyl)propionate).

8 (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting the polymer from a group consisting of poly (styrene ethylene propylene styrene), poly (styrene ethylene butylene styrene), and poly (styrene ethylene propylene styrene).

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of molding the elastomer face-seal interface into a lip seal configuration.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of molding the elastomer face-seal interface into a gel-filled bladder.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of molding the elastomer face-seal interface into a particle-filled bladder.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of filling the bladder with particles under negative pressure whereby the bladder conforms to a face when forced on the face yet retains the shape even if the mask is removed.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of filling the bladder with particles and fluid in combination.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of filling the bladder with particles and fluid in combination is performed substantially at atmospheric pressure.

15 (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of water and silicone oil.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) ~~The product of the method of claim 16.~~ A face-seal interface for a respiratory mask configured and adapted to provide a seal between peripheral boundaries of said respiratory facemask and a patient's face made by the method of claim 1 thereby having a micro-cratered outer surface covered with a dry powder acting as a lubricant.

18. (currently amended) The ~~product~~ face-seal interface of claim 17, wherein the additive is from the group consisting of Tetrakis (2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl) [1,1-biphenyl]-4,4'-diylbisphosphonite; Tris (2,4-~~ditert~~di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate; Butanedioic acid, dimethylester, polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidine ethanol; 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-(4,6-bis(octylthio)-1,3,5-triazin-2-ylamino)phenol; 3,3',3',5,5',5'-hexa-tert-butyl-a,a',a'-(mesitylene-2,4,6-triyl) tri-p-cresol; and Pentaerythritol Tetrakis (3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxphenyl)propionate).

19. (currently amended) The ~~product~~ face-seal interface of claim 17, wherein the polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly (styrene ethylene propylene styrene), poly (styrene ethylene ~~butylenes~~ butylene styrene), and poly (styrene ethylene propylene styrene).

20-26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended) A face-seal interface for a respiratory mask ~~comprising a particle-filled~~ as defined in claim 17 wherein said face-seal interface comprises an elastomeric bladder.

28. (currently amended) The face-seal interface of claim 27 wherein the elastomeric bladder is ~~vacuum-packed~~ filled with the particles.

29. (currently amended) The face-seal interface of claim [27] 28 wherein the interstitial space between particles within the elastomeric bladder is filled with fluid.

30. (original) The face-seal interface of claim 29 wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of water and silicone oil.

31. (new) The face-seal interface of claim 28 wherein the particles are vacuum packed into the elastomeric bladder.